

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-35. (canceled)

36. (currently amended) A method of managing ideas, comprising the steps of:

(a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas for prospectively patentable inventions; and

(b) programming a computer to provide contingent contractual rights in exchange for transfers of property rights under patent rights to prospectively patentable inventions derived at least in part from the accumulated ideas, or in exchange for contractual obligations to transfer said property rights, ~~providing wherein said~~ contingent contractual rights are to a portion of anticipated income derived from said property rights; and

(c) marketing said contingent contractual rights.

37. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 36, wherein step ~~(b)~~ (c) comprises the step of:

~~(e) providing~~ (d) programming a computer to facilitate marketing of said contingent contractual rights in an on-line marketable format.

38. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 37, wherein the format is an electronically tradable certificate.

39. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 37, wherein step ~~(e)~~ (d) comprises the step of:

~~(d)~~ (e) enabling on-line transfer, sale, and/or auction of the contingent contractual rights

Claim 40. (canceled)

41. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 36 or 37, wherein a computer system facilitates use of contributor computers to make on-line contributions of said ideas to the computer database; and wherein step (b) comprises the step of:

(d) providing said contingent contractual rights by on-line communications between the computer system and the contributor computers.

42. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 36 or 37, wherein said ideas are systematically accumulated prior to filing any patent applications for inventions respectively derived at least in part from said accumulated ideas.

43. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 36 or 37, wherein said ideas include needs and/or requirements of said inventions.

44. (previously presented) A computer readable storage medium(media), comprising computer executable instructions for causing a computer(s) to manage ideas, wherein the instructions cause the computer(s) to perform the method of Claim 36.

45. (previously presented) A computer readable storage medium(media), comprising computer executable instructions for causing a computer(s) to manage ideas, wherein the instructions cause the computer(s) to perform the method of Claim 37.

46. (previously presented) A computer readable storage medium(media), comprising computer executable instructions for causing a computer(s) to manage ideas, wherein the instructions cause the computer(s) to perform the method of Claim 38.

47. (previously presented) A computer readable storage medium(media), comprising computer executable instructions for causing a computer(s) to manage ideas, wherein the instructions cause the computer(s) to perform the method of Claim 39.

Claim 48. (canceled)

49. (previously presented) A computer readable storage medium(media), comprising computer executable instructions for causing a computer(s) to manage ideas, wherein the instructions cause the computer(s) to perform the method of Claim 41.

50. (previously presented) A computer readable storage medium(media), comprising computer executable instructions for causing a computer(s) to manage ideas, wherein the instructions cause the computer(s) to perform the method of Claim 42.

51. (previously presented) A computer readable storage medium(media), comprising computer executable instructions for causing a computer(s) to manage ideas, wherein the instructions cause the computer(s) to perform the method of Claim 43.